(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A total of 11 plotforms were delivered to ONGC by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL). In the recent years, HSL has not undertaken any project construct in work for ONGC in Mumbai Offshore. Though HSL has partcipated in various tenders of ONGC but either its bid was not qualified techno-commercially or its offered price was not competitive.

(e) ONGC is a Navratna company and has been among others delegated requisite financial powers to take decisions, keeping in view its commercial interests.

Self-sufficiency in crude production

1453. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is looking at becoming self-sufficient in production of crude;

(b) if so, whether domestic crude oil production rose to 1.9 per cent in April, 2002 as compared to targeted figure for the month;

(c) whether the production was also 10.1 per cent higher than production of corresponding period last year;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for increase of crude production and to what extent this increase will make India self-sufficient in the crude oil production; and

(e) what efforts are being made to improve its production further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHR! SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (e) Given the increasing demand for the petroleum products and the current level of import dependence of around 70%, it is difficult to envisage self-sufficiency in the near future. However, several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following:—

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/lmproved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes, in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of about Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first and second rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCS) have been signed for 47 blocks. Offer of 27 exploration blocks under NELP-III has also been announced in March, 2002 with bid closing date as 28.8.2002.

(iii) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(v) To acquire acreages abroad.

(b) The actual production of crude oil in April, 2002 was about 1.25% higher than the target set for the said month.

(c)The production of crude oil in April, 2002 was about 2.70% higher than the production in the corresponding period in 2001.

(d)The main reasons for the increase in crude oil production during April, 2002 *vis-a-vis* April, 2001 are:—

(i) Results from some of the Improve Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes being implemented by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation.

(ii) Increased production from Panna, Rawa and PY-3 fields operated by Private/joint venture companies.

Increase in production has no significant impact in the matter of self-sufficiency.

IOC's Pipeline Projects

1454. SHRISURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has dropped 15 pipeline projects;

(b) if so, the details of each project and the reasons for their non-implementation; and